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Client Reference: P-1537.010-US

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of
LEENDERS et al.



Confirmation Number: 4673

Application No.: 10/823,772

Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: April 14, 2004

Examiner: Kim, Peter B.

Title: LITHOGRAPHIC APPARATUS, PROJECTION SYSTEM, METHOD OF
PROJECTING AND DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD

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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicants confirm with appreciation the receipt of the Notice of Allowability for this application. However, in the Office Action of September 7, 2006, the Examiner provided a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse these reasons.

In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the allowed claims are patentable for their respective recitations of the claimed combination of elements *as a whole*. That is, the patentability of the claims rests squarely on the combination of recited elements and limitations without any particular criticality or distinguishing feature being attributable to any one or more of such features, and without any narrowing interpretation being imposed on any of such features. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that no one element or limitation in particular should be deemed to impart to or be required for patentability of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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